

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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2004 Regular Session  
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By: **Senators Stoltzfus, Colburn, Dyson, Greenip, Hafer, Haines, Harris,  
Hooper, Jacobs, Mooney, and Munson**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2004

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Proclamation of the Maryland General Assembly on the Family**

3 FOR the purpose of urging citizens, organizations, and institutions to support and  
4 participate in activities and events in celebration of the 2004 Tenth Anniversary  
5 of the International Year of the Family; and generally relating to the promotion  
6 and strengthening of the family.

7 WHEREAS, It is universally recognized that the family is the natural and  
8 fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the  
9 State; and

10 WHEREAS, The President of the United States has recently and repeatedly  
11 emphasized that the strength of the nation depends on the strength of the family, and  
12 has called on all to "recommit ourselves to strengthen our Nation by strengthening  
13 our families"; and

14 WHEREAS, The United Nations has proclaimed the year 2004 as the Tenth  
15 Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in order to, among other things,  
16 increase awareness of family issues among Governments as well as in the private  
17 sector; and

18 WHEREAS, The institution of the family is now being undermined and  
19 threatened by various cultural, social, political, legal, and economic forces that are  
20 weakening the bonds between husband and wife, parent and child, and the  
21 generations, and wreaking consequential harm and havoc throughout society; now,  
22 therefore, be it

23 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That the  
24 General Assembly declares that the family exists prior to the state and is the very  
25 foundation of our communities and the bedrock of our nation, continuing to be the  
26 most fundamental unit of society, the basis and bastion of civilization and progress  
27 since time immemorial, and the continuing hope of mankind; and be it further

28 **RESOLVED**, That the General Assembly declares that the family, ideally  
29 founded on marriage between husband and wife, is the cradle of life and love for each  
30 new generation, the primary source of identity, self-esteem and support, and the first

1 and foremost school of life, being uniquely suited to teach children integrity,  
2 character, morals, responsibility, service, and wisdom, and thereby transmitting  
3 timeless values to future generations; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly recognizes the urgent need for  
5 measures designed to promote family happiness and stability by promoting loving  
6 and faithful marriages, and by encouraging greater love and loyalty among all family  
7 members, increased connection and communication between parents and children,  
8 and more involvement of both fathers and mothers in raising children in a positive  
9 and healthy environment and in teaching them values and morals essential to  
10 personal fulfillment and the success of society; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges all citizens and communities,  
12 and all organizations and institutions in all sectors of society, to proactively promote  
13 those measures designed to protect, defend, and strengthen the family as the  
14 fundamental unit of society; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly further urges government leaders,  
16 officials, and representatives in all levels and branches of government, with respect to  
17 all legislative, executive, administrative, and judicial action, to promote those  
18 measures designed to protect, defend, and strengthen the family as the fundamental  
19 unit of society; and be it further

20       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly calls on leaders and people of influence  
21 in media, entertainment, education, business, the arts, and religion to help reverse  
22 the cultural bias against family and family values; and be if further

23       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly further calls on all citizens and  
24 communities, and all organizations and institutions in all sectors of society, to help  
25 support, sponsor, organize, and participate in appropriate activities and events  
26 designed to promote and protect the family as the fundamental unit of society in  
27 celebration of the 2004 Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family;  
28 and be it further

29       RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
30 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;  
31 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and  
32 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.